



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**Raised Bill No. 7394**

LCO No. 6444



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:  
(JUD)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN A FIRST RESPONDER AND A PEER SUPPORT TEAM MEMBER.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) (a) As used in this  
2 section:

3 (1) "Peer support team member" means any person engaged in  
4 directing or staffing any peer support program established by an  
5 employer for the benefit of an employee who is a first responder;

6 (2) "First responder" means: Any peace officer or firefighter, as  
7 defined in section 53a-3 of the general statutes; any ambulance driver,  
8 emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician,  
9 advanced emergency medical technician, or paramedic, as defined in  
10 section 19a-175 of the general statutes; and any telecommunicator, as  
11 defined in section 28-30 of the general statutes; and

12 (3) "Confidential communications" means all oral and written  
13 communications transmitted in confidence between a first responder

14 and a peer support team member in the course of participation in an  
15 employer established peer support program and all records prepared  
16 by a peer support team member in the course of the relationship with a  
17 first responder.

18 (b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, no peer  
19 support team member shall disclose any confidential communications  
20 (1) to any third person, other than a person to whom disclosure is  
21 reasonably necessary for the accomplishment of the purposes for  
22 which such member is consulted, (2) in any civil or criminal case or  
23 proceeding, or (3) in any legislative or administrative proceeding,  
24 unless the first responder making the confidential communication  
25 waives the privilege.

26 (c) No person in any civil or criminal case or proceeding or in any  
27 legislative or administrative proceeding may request or require  
28 information from any first responder relating to the first responder's  
29 participation in a peer support program, including whether or not  
30 such first responder at any time participated in such peer support  
31 program.

32 (d) Consent of a first responder shall not be required for the  
33 disclosure of such first responder's confidential communications:

34 (1) Where mandated by any other provision of the general statutes;

35 (2) Where a peer support team member believes in good faith that  
36 the failure to disclose such confidential communications presents a  
37 clear and present danger to any individual, including the first  
38 responder; and

39 (3) Where the peer support team member was a witness or party to  
40 an incident that resulted in the delivery of peer support services to the  
41 first responder.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2019	New section
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**Statement of Purpose:**

To ensure the confidentiality of certain communications that take place between a first responder and a peer support team member.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*